

UNITED STATES PATENT APPLICATION

OF: TOHGO MURATA

MARI TAIRA

FOR: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR LANGUAGE
INSTRUCTION

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

This invention relates to a method and apparatus for teaching a foreign language to a student, and in particular
5 relates to such method and apparatus for teaching the English language to a Japanese student.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

10 It is more and more necessary for Japanese people to acquire skills of using the English language in today's global economy conditions. There are already a number of kinds of methods and apparatus on the market to teach English to Japanese people. However, there are few materials to
15 effectively train Japanese people to "think" in English throughout the course of learning.

Typically, the comprehension by Japanese people of English sentences is to listen to them and to read them. The
20 expression in English is to express what is seen as reality, in a photograph or anything imagined, to write and speak in English and to translate from Japanese to English. Conversation in the English language requires skills of comprehension as well as expression.

25 What is common to these seven skills (listening, reading, watching, writing, speaking, translating and conversation) is to think in English. In most cases for Japanese people to use English, they tend to think in Japanese. This prevents them
30 from learning English effectively.

Any words and phrases in any sentences correspond to one of "5W1H" and some other factors such as who, what, being

where, doing what, being how, being whom, being what, where, when, why, how, if and other modifiers to the predicate of a sentence.

5 People who speak English as their native language are believed to acquire the skill of thinking in English in their infant period. However, once the skill is acquired they are not conscious of the skill yet they can increase number of words and phrases day by day.

10 On the other hand, people who learn English as second language for instance Japanese try to learn by heart words and phrases or total sentences without the custom of thinking in English. This effort tends to become vain for most Japanese,
15 which makes them feel it difficult to learn English.

 This invention presents a method for Japanese to think in English with simple rules and principles using 5W1H.

20 SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

 The present invention is in one aspect a method of using a computer to instruct a student to learn the English language. First, a software program such as a spreadsheet
25 program is configured with a plurality of English sentences. Each English sentence is first parsed into a plurality of predefined English sentence parts, and each of the predefined English sentence parts are entered into a corresponding input field of the computer program user interface. The computer
30 program is adapted to display each input field for each sentence entered and concatenate the plurality of input fields to provide a resultant English sentence field for display to a user.